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Longridge Urban District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of Longridge for the year 1945.

The area of the Urban District is unchanged.

The social conditions and the state of employment in the district were satisfactory.

The health of the inhabitants remained good throughout the year, although there were indications of reduced powers of resistance to infection, particularly in the younger ages during this period. The termination of the war in the middle of the year came as a relief to a population worn by the long years of the war but who had never been depressed nor dispirited. Fortunately also the physiological rebound from the stresses of war to the blessings of peace was not marked, at least up to the end of 1945, by those diseases of the central nervous system which had occurred at the end of the previous war; nor was it marked by any serious influx of diseases imported from abroad. Such colds and minor attacks of Influenza which did occur during the year were of a trivial character and were not accompanied by Pneumonia. Infectious Diseases were mild and although Measles were prevalent, it was of a minor type and after effects were absent. There were few cases of Scarlet Fever and the type of disease was mild. There were no cases of Diphtheria.

It is a matter for regret that shortage of staffs once again prevented the full supervision of the milk supply and of milk production. In the production of a wholesome milk, a food so essential for the younger end of the population, no efforts should be spared to ensure the provision of a supply clean, free of the germs of diseases, and of a quality suitable for the healthy growth of the child.

Further inspections were made of those defective houses which, it is hoped, will in future be replaced by those of a more modern and more hygienic character.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	3,285.
Population (Census 1931)	4,158.
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population Mid 1945	3,713.
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	1,067.
Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1945 (Rate Books)	1,228.
Rateable Value	£23,841.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£95.

Health
PUBLIC OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health: G. G. Wray, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Whole or Part-time: Part.

Other Public Appointments held: M.O.H. Fulwood U.D.C.

M.O.H. Walton-le-Dale U.D.C.

Assistant County Medical Officer.

(Not in private practice).

Sanitary Inspector: James Marshall (Royal Sanitary Certificate).

Whole or Part-time: Part.

Other duties: Surveyor and Engineer.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

				Total.	M.	F.	Birth-rate per 1,000
Legitimate	...	...	...	68	31	37	estimated resident
Illegitimate	...	...	...	3	2	1	population (mid 1945)
				—	—	—	19.1.
Total	...	...	...	71	33	38	

STILL BIRTHS.

				Total.	M.	F.	Rate per 1,000 total
Legitimate	...	...	...	2	2	—	(live and still) births
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	1	—	40.
				—	—	—	
Total	...	...	...	3	3	—	

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

				Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...	4	2	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	1	—
				—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	5	3	2

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births (Infantile Mortality Rate).....	70.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	58.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	333.

The causes of deaths of Infants under 1 year of age are given below:—

					M.	F.
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	1	1
Gastro Enteritis	...	...	...	...	1	1
Idiopathic Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	1	0
					—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	3	2

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

	Total.	M.	F.
Total Deaths (all causes)	47	20	27
Death-rate per 1,000 Estimated Population ...			12.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	4	1	3
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	1	1
Deaths from Tuberculosis			Nil.
Deaths from Puerperal Causes			Nil.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.	Total.
Diseases of the Heart	12	14	26
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	—	1	1.
Cancer (all ages)	1	3	4
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1	2
Kidney Disease	1	1	2
Prematurity	1	1	2
All other causes	3	4	7
Totals	20	27	47

Twenty-five of these deaths, including the 3 cases of Pneumonia and the 2 cases of Diarrhoea, died in other districts and were transferred to this district.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES,
LANCASHIRE AND LONGRIDGE.

	England & Wales.	Lanca- shire.	Long- ridge.
Live Births per 1,000 of population	16.1	16.62	19.1
Death Rate per per 1,000 of population (all causes)	11.4	13.12	12.6
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	46	50	70
Death Rate from Measles per 1,000 population .....	.02	N.A.	Nil.
Death Rate from Whooping Cough per 1,000 population .....	.02	N.A.	Nil.
Death Rate from Diarrhoea (under 2) per 1,000 births	5.6	N.A.	28.1
Maternal Mortality Rate	1.79	2.39	Nil.

N.A. — Not available.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 132 cases notified during 1945 as follows:—

Measles	117.
Scarlet Fever	10.
Acute Pneumonia	3.
Whooping Cough	2.

All the cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to hospital and the necessary steps taken to disinfect the houses.

The number of cases of Measles has been noted above. As there was a large number of susceptibles (i.e., those who had not had a previous attack) in the district, the disease spread widely. The illness caused was mild in character and there were no unpleasant after effects. Probably the number notified represented about half the cases which occurred as in many cases the disease was so slight that the Doctor was not called.

The absence of cases of Diphtheria should be noted.

A Table is given below showing the age groups of the cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1945:—

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases all ages	under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 & over	Total Deaths	Removed to Hospital
Measles ...	117	6	1	5	12	17	65	9	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	10	—	—	—	—	2	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Acute Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	132	6	1	5	12	20	72	12	2	1	1	—	—	—	10

THE CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

This measure of protection to prevent the occurrence of Diphtheria was continued throughout the year. Individual children were immunised by private practitioners either at the Council's expense or privately. In addition, injections were given at the School Clinic by the Medical Officer of Health, particularly to the children under school age, or to those school children whose parents desired them to be protected. Stress has always been laid in this district upon the necessity for the re-inforcement of the immunity four years after the first immunisation. This fact is emphasised in a leaflet which is handed to each mother who brings her baby to the Child Welfare Centre.

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:—

	Age 0—4	Age 5-15
By Private Practitioner	21	6
By M.O.H.	28	5
Total	49	11

The number of children who received reinforcement doses was:—

By Practitioners	40.
By M.O.H.	219.
Total	259.

These figures only include those children who were immunised at the expense of the Council, they do not include those who were protected privately and for whom no record cards were obtained.

An estimate of the child population of Longridge for mid-1945 was—

Group 0—5 inclusive ... 326. Group 5—14 inclusive ... 614.

and of this number of children it was estimated from all sources of protection that 56.7 per cent. of the under 5 group and 96.1 per cent. of the school age group were protected. The estimated percentage of children immunised in the under 5 group is undoubtedly too low, and the actual number of children immunised in this group is probably in the vicinity of 65 per cent. or even greater.

A reliable valuation of the extent of the immunity enjoyed by the child population of Longridge is provided by the absence of cases of Diphtheria in the year under review.

The arrangements for the isolation and treatment of cases of Infectious Diseases were similar to those of previous years. The 10 houses where cases of Scarlet Fever occurred were disinfected and the bedding, clothing, etc., submitted to steam disinfection.

The laboratory at Preston Royal Infirmary rendered valuable aid to diagnosis. 11 swabs were examined for Diphtheria and other throat conditions, and 3 swabs for other conditions.

Several contacts of cases of Smallpox, who had come from the East, were kept under observation.

GENERAL DISEASES.

Preston Royal Infirmary, Mount Street Hospital, and Sharoe Green Hospital provided the hospital treatment required for cases of sickness or accident. The arrangements for the conveyance of such cases to hospital were as in previous years, and they were adequate.

The Radium Clinic at Preston Royal Infirmary was available for the treatment of Malignant Diseases, and the Laboratory attached to the Hospital was also available for diagnosis.

SERVICES SUPPLIED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

MATERNITY.—The Obstetrician of the Preston Royal Infirmary (Mr. Andison) attended fortnightly at the School Clinic in Kestor Lane. Expectant and Nursing Mothers attended there for advice, or for treatment when necessary. The County Health Visitor was in attendance, and the local Midwives were invited to attend also.

Where hospital treatment was considered necessary, by reason of abnormality or home conditions not suitable for child-birth, such cases were admitted to the Maternity sections of Preston Royal Infirmary or Sharoe Green Hospital. Patients who required private hospital accommodation found this at these hospitals or at Mount Street Hospital.

The number of mothers in attendance at the Ante-natal Clinic in 1945 was 53, and they made 233 attendances. Those who attended after child-birth numbered 14, and they made 14 attendances.

THE CHILD WELFARE CENTRE met weekly on Tuesday afternoons. A County Medical Officer and a County Health Visitor were in attendance at each session.

The number of babies on the register for the year was 241, and they made 2,075 attendances.

THE SCHOOL CLINIC comprised the following sections:—Minor Ailments, Ophthalmic, and Dental. For all sections, inspection, advice, and treatment were provided for children of school age, and also for those children who had not yet attained school age.

In the MINOR AILMENT SECTION, inflammations, diseases and injuries of the eyes, ears, skin, throat and nose, and other parts of the body, were treated. Parents also attended with their children for advice on treatment, advice on behaviour, and advice on future occupation. In 1945, 290 children made 787 attendances.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.—During 1945, 133 children attended and made 173 attendances.

THE DENTAL CLINIC met two days per week. In 1945, 678 children attended, and made 1,207 attendances. More than half of these attendances were made for the purpose of conserving the teeth, and the rest for extractions, for which some 500 general anaesthetics were given. In addition, 11 children under school age made 20 attendances, and 11 expectant mothers attended on 17 occasions.

SPECIAL DEFECTS.—Children suffering from Paralysis or Orthopaedic defects were referred to and attended at the Orthopaedic Clinic, which met once per month at Leyland. Any hospital treatment required for such cases was given at the Lancashire County Orthopaedic Hospital at Biddulph, or in County beds in the Orthopaedic Hospitals at Heswall or Windermere.

BLIND CHILDREN, or Partially Blind Children, were sent to Fulwood Blind School.

DEAF AND DUMB CHILDREN to the Royal Cross School, Preston.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN were referred to the Lancashire Asylum's Board.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Patients suffering from the various types of this disease were dealt with by the Lancashire County Tuberculosis Staff. Treatment at the Dispensary, in Hospital, or in Sanatorium was available, and used by the persons affected when necessary. X-rays for treatment, or for diagnosis, were used at the Dispensary. Sputum examinations were made at the same place. The Tuberculosis Dispensary, at which patients from this area attended, was at Waltons' Parade, Preston.

There were only two primary notifications of this disease in 1945, both Pulmonary in type, one a girl of 17 and the other a man of 40. This number showed a considerable reduction upon 1944, when 6 cases were notified. The reduction in the number of cases in this district is comparable with that of the country generally, as the death rates from Tuberculosis in 1944 fell to .583 per 1,000 population compared with .619 in the previous year. Five persons, 4 Non-Pulmonary and 1 Pulmonary, were removed from the Register, being considered to have recovered. At the end of the year there were 20 persons still on the Register (3 Respiratory and 17 Non-respiratory).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The WATER SUPPLY, obtained from Preston Corporation, was sufficient in amount and of wholesome quality. Some complaints received about excessive chlorination were referred to Preston Corporation, and the cause was rectified.

There were repairs to one water main during the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL & SCAVENGING were carried out by the Council by Motor vehicles. A new tip at the periphery of the district will provide adequate accommodation for many years to come. It is situated on safe bearing strata without any risk of contamination to existing water supplies.

SEWERAGE.—The majority of the houses are on the water carriage system. More than a third of the water closets (460 out of 1,213) are of the waste water type, and it would be desirable to replace these in the future, gradually and systematically. There are still 46 privy middens in the district, and in addition, 74 pail closets are in use. The number of movable ash-bins in use in 1945 was 902, and 80 dry ash-pits had to be emptied at intervals.

There were no conversions to the water carriage system in 1945.

Investigations into the complaints of foul ordour and over-flow from a man-hole showed the necessity for the diversion of a branch sewer.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.—260 visits were made during the year to investigate complaints or defects. Of the 14 which required informal notices, all were abated without the necessity of legal proceedings.

SCHOOLS.

All the Schools were inspected at intervals. No nuisances were found, and on the whole the Schools were reasonably well kept. It was not necessary to close any of the Schools for Infectious Disease during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—The number of dairy farms was 32 with upwards of 550 cows. Three dairymen, other than cow-keepers, were registered. The number of inspections made to these farms and dairies during the year was 103. Details of these inspections will be found in Mr. Marshall's report. At one farm a new dairy has been erected and the shippon converted and modernised. Two further licences to produce and bottle T.T. milk have been granted to farms in the district, and in addition a licence to produce Accredited Milk was granted to another farm.

The number of farms now producing T.T. Milk in this district is 6.

The number of farms producing Accredited Milk is 6.

The number of farms producing Non-designated Milk is 20.

During the year, 10 samples of milk were taken and submitted to tests. Of these, 7 were satisfactory bacteriologically, and 3 were unsatisfactory. All the samples were free of T.B. Staffing difficulties prevented further sampling of milk, but the number of samples taken were quite insufficient to provide effective control of the milk supplied in the district. It would indeed be desirable to sample every source of milk in the district at least three times per year, and to deal firmly with those whose samples consistently fall below the level of satisfactory milk.

MEAT AND OTHER GOODS.—The details of food condemned as unfit for human consumption will be found in Mr. Marshall's report appended. Five tons of peas unfit for human food were brought into this district to be converted to animal feeding stuffs. A certificate was obtained from the owners that these peas would only be used for animal feeding and not for human consumption.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1945.

No new houses were built in the year.

The continued suspension of certain sections of the Housing Acts deferred for the present that transfer of the inhabitants of certain unhygienic houses to new houses and the demolition of the old houses.

The total number of houses inspected for defects was 72. 14 of these were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 10 of them had repairs carried out which improved them. It was not found necessary to take legal action in any case connected with housing defects.

Housing repairs remained difficult, due to the shortages of labour and materials.

Instances of two families living in one house were known, but in the absence of a house-to-house census, the full extent of this dual habitation could only be estimated. The Council have a scheme in hand to provide 30 permanent and 10 temporary houses to meet immediate requirements.

BLOOD DONORS.

Further sessions were held at the Clinic to obtain blood for the hospitals from volunteer donors. The number attending these sessions fell after the termination of the war, but a sufficient number attended to make the holding of these sessions in Longridge a worth while undertaking.

LEGISLATION IN 1945.

None outstanding in the matters of Public Health.

REPORT APPENDED—Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. G. WRAY.

Longridge,
August, 1946.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

On inspection these have been found in a clean condition and well kept. At one Factory, sanitary improvements and additions have been carried out.

RETAIL BAKEHOUSES.

When visited these have been found well kept with walls well lime-washed.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The Shippons on inspection have invariably been found kept in a clean condition, together with the milk-shops, the water supply on the whole is good, and the cattle kept of a healthy class.

Ten milk samples have been taken.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The cases reported number ten as compared with thirty-four last year.

Scarlet Fever 10.

All cases were removed to the Hospital and the dwelling-houses disinfected. The Schools and houses where infection has occurred have been provided with disinfectant ; quite a number of Rate-payers keep purchasing disinfectant liquids.

FOOD.

The following quantities of food have been condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Corned Beef	60 lbs.
Corned Mutton	1½ lbs.
Beans and Tomatoes	362 ozs.
Tinned Milk	3 tins.
Salmon	¾ lbs.
Butter	7 tins.

NUISANCES.

When nuisances have arisen they have generally been readily attended to and abated by the owners on notification.

HOUSE REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

The fortnightly service of collection of house refuse and salvage appears to be giving satisfaction. This year the refuse has been disposed of at the new tip at Thornley Tile Works at a considerable reduction in haulage as compared with past years.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE WORKS.

All Manholes and Sewers throughout the district have been regularly inspected and periodically flushed, surface road gullies have also been attended to together with the cleaning of the streets. No change has been made at the Sewage Works as it is anticipated that the sewage will in future be carried from these works to couple up with the Preston Sewage.

JAMES MARSHALL,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

July, 1946.

